



Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department

Disease Prevention/Health Promotion Division
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Zika Situational Report – Friday, April 29, 2016

As of April 27, a total of 426 laboratory-confirmed travel-associated Zika virus disease cases have been reported to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 43 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Of the 426 cases reported, 36 were pregnant women, 8 were sexually transmitted, and 1 had Guillain-Barré syndrome. Texas has 31 Zika virus disease cases.

There are 43 countries and territories with active Zika virus transmission.

As of today, staff have identified 120 persons (63 percent are pregnant women) in the City of Austin and Travis County for whom clinical specimens have been submitted to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for Zika virus testing. Results have been reported for 69 persons; two persons have been tested positive for Zika, one for Dengue, and two for Chikungunya. Testing results are pending for 27 persons (24 additional individual specimens were not able to be tested). There are no reported severe illnesses, hospitalizations, or deaths from Zika virus.

Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department (ATCHHSD) staff met on April 29 with other city departments to continue discussions on the mosquito abatement and messaging strategy.

Staff continue working with Austin area physicians to educate them on the process of submitting specimens to the state laboratory for Zika virus testing. Guidance related to Zika disease and pregnancy, laboratory testing, and prevention of sexual transmission of Zika virus have been prepared by the CDC. Staff are sharing this guidance to physician offices when requested.

Staff are also conducting interviews of persons whose physician has submitted serum specimen to the state laboratory to collect demographic and exposure data required by DSHS. Staff are also providing guidance on ways to protect oneself from mosquito bites to individuals who have scheduled trips to areas where Zika virus is circulating.

For questions or more information about ways to reduce mosquitoes around property residents can continue to call Rodent and Vector program at 3-1-1.

The ATCHHSD's Zika website for healthcare providers and the public has been updated with links to new information and resources: <http://www.austintexas.gov/zika>.

Other news:

- CDC reports that, at the present time, information is lacking on whether the risk for Zika virus infection or the severity of Zika virus illness is different for people with HIV infection or other causes of immune suppression. People with HIV infection do not appear to have any greater risk than the general population for infection with other viruses that are similar to Zika virus, such as dengue virus, yellow fever virus, or West Nile virus.

The most common symptoms of Zika virus disease are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is typically mild and resolves within one week.

We continue to encourage people to follow travel precautions and avoid mosquito bites. Preventative measures residents can take to avoid mosquito bites include draining any water around their property, wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants and using EPA-registered insect repellents.

At this time, no additional resources are needed to address and respond to the Zika virus.

ATCHHSD staff are available 24/7 to support healthcare providers in responding to any patient with a suspect Zika virus infections. ATCHHSD has created a website for healthcare providers and the public that provide information:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/zika>.